



By GERRY VAN DER HEUVEL

President Johnson's choice of retired Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr. to head the CIA was his most important appointment to date, at least so far as the nation's security is concerned. This is how it came about

New Head of CIA Was Scouted by Macy

Johnson "never even heard of Raborn until Macy recommended him for the job," a source close to the President said. John Macy, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, is Johnson's chief talent scout for top appointments. What the President subsequently learned and liked was that, as the developer of the Polaris weapons program, "Raborn took that Polaris and knew every nut and bolt in it."

Besides his own observations and knowledge of the former vice president of Aerojet General, Macy gave the President the book "Polaris" by James Barr and William Howard to read before he made a decision. After reading the pertinent parts of the book, the President thought he had found his man, but he wanted a closer look.

An invitation to Raborn to spend last weekend at the LBJ Ranch followed. His appointment was announced from there.

Johnson's final decision had been that here was a "real management genius, a fellow who can take on Congress and those admirals above him and all the agency people under him."